

# KENTUCKY AGRI-NEWS



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**FEATURING:**    ♦ Agricultural Prices    ♦ Milk Production    ♦ Farm Labor    ♦ Annual Honey    ♦ Slaughter  
                  ♦ Cold Storage    ♦ Cattle on Feed    ♦ Chicken & Eggs    ♦ Crop Values    ♦ Farm Numbers

## LIVESTOCK PRICES MIXED WHILE GRAIN PRICES DOWN

Prices received by **Kentucky** farmers in mid-February were steady to higher for livestock while down for grain.

**Steers and heifers** 500 lbs. and over at mid-February averaged \$78.00 per cwt. This was \$2.00 above January, but \$3.00 below last year. Prices received for **beef cows** were \$5.00 above last month at \$41.00 per cwt. This was however \$1.00 below February 2001. **Calves** under 500 lbs. averaged \$94.00 per cwt., \$2.00 higher than January while \$5.00 below last year.

The mid-February price received for **barrows and gilts** remained unchanged from January at \$38.00 per cwt. This was \$1.00 above last February's average. **Sows** averaged at \$26.00 per cwt., \$1.00 above last month, but \$5.00 below February 2001.

The **all milk** price remained unchanged from January 2002 and the same as February 2001 at \$14.30 per cwt.

Prices received for **all corn** decreased 4 cents from last month to \$2.10 per bushel. The price was 18 cents below last February. **Soybeans** at \$4.40 per bushel were 5 cents below January and 27 cents below last February. The price for **winter wheat** decreased 4 cents from last month to \$2.70 per bushel. This was 12 cents higher than a year earlier.

The preliminary **U.S.** All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February was 99, using a 1990-92=100 base period, up 4 points (4.2 percent) from the January Index. Price increases for lettuce, cattle, broccoli, and potatoes more than offset decreased prices for broilers, tomatoes, peanuts and eggs. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell affects the overall index. Higher marketings for milk, cattle, broilers, and hogs more than offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, tobacco, and wheat. Compared with February 2001, the All Farm Products Index was down 1 point (1.0 percent). Lower prices for cattle, broilers, eggs, and onions more than offset higher prices for lettuce, broccoli, potatoes, and oranges.

### AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS (Dollars)

COMMODITY	UNIT	KENTUCKY			US
		FEB 2001	JAN 2002	FEB 2002	FEB 2002
		Entire Month		Mid-Month a/	
All Corn <u>b/</u> <u>c/</u>	Bu.	2.28	2.14	2.10	1.93
Soybeans <u>b/</u>	Bu.	4.67	4.45	4.40	4.19
Winter Wheat <u>b/</u>	Bu.	2.58	2.74	2.70	2.82
Alfalfa Hay, baled	Ton	125.00	110.00	105.00	99.50
All Other Hay, baled	Ton	75.00	64.00	61.00	70.80
All Hogs	Cwt.	36.80	37.50	37.60	38.40
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	37.00	38.00	38.00	39.00
Sows	Cwt.	31.00	25.00	26.00	27.90
All Beef Cattle <u>d/</u>	Cwt.	71.60	66.40	69.10	70.40
Steers & Heifers <u>e/</u>	Cwt.	81.00	76.00	78.00	74.10
Cows	Cwt.	42.00	36.00	41.00	40.70
Calves <u>f/</u>	Cwt.	99.00	92.00	94.00	104.00
Milk Wholesale					
All	Cwt.	14.30	14.30	14.30	13.30
Fluid <u>g/</u>	Cwt.	14.30	14.30	- -	13.40
Manufactured	Cwt.	9.40	11.60	- -	12.20
Hog-Corn Ratios <u>h/</u>	Bu.	16.1	17.5	17.9	19.9

a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes contract sales paid during month. c/ Includes yellow and white corn. d/ "Steers and heifers" and "cows" combined. e/ 500 lbs. and over. f/ Under 500 lbs. g/ Includes surplus diverted to manufacturing. h/ Number of bushels of corn equal in value to 100 lbs. of hog live weight.

## U. S. MILK PRODUCTION UP 1.8 PERCENT

**Kentucky** milk production for January 2002 totaled 142 million pounds, unchanged from a year earlier, and up slightly from last month. Average number of cows on farms at 123,000 head was down 7,000 head from last year and down 2,000 head from last month. Milk per cow averaged 1,155 pounds, up 65 pounds from January 2001, and up 25 pounds from December 2001.

Milk production in the **20 major States** during January totaled 12.3 billion pounds, up 1.8 percent from January

2001. December revised production, at 12.0 billion pounds was up 1.2 percent from December 2000. The December revision represented an increase of 0.3 percent or 34 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate. Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,585 pounds for January, 36 pounds above January 2001. The number of cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.74 million head, 44,000 head less than January 2001, and 10,000 head less than December 2001.

### MILK COWS & MILK PRODUCTION DECEMBER & JANUARY, SELECTED STATES

STATE	Revised December				January				
	Milk Cows 1/		Production 2/		Milk Cows 1/		Production 2/		%02 of '01
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2001	2002	2001	2002	
	1,000 Head		Million Pounds		1,000 Head		Million Pounds		
CA	1,558	1,618	2,703	2,815	1,563	1,622	2,751	2,863	104
IL	118	115	172	171	118	115	173	178	103
IN	151	155	215	216	151	153	220	215	98
<b>KY</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100</b>
MN	525	500	780	730	520	495	790	750	95
MO	151	141	178	161	149	140	171	169	99
OH	265	258	371	374	264	260	354	380	107
TX	344	310	451	429	341	310	465	460	99
VA	119	119	157	159	118	119	163	164	101
WI	1,330	1,280	1,889	1,837	1,322	1,279	1,910	1,874	98
20-State Total	7,802	7,750	11,868	12,008	7,784	7,740	12,059	12,271	102

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

## U.S. HIRED WORKERS UP 7 PERCENT, WAGES UP OVER 3 PERCENT

There were 914,000 hired workers on the **Nation's** farms and ranches the week of January 6-12, 2002, up 7 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 731,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 183,000 workers. Migrant workers accounted for 7.6 percent of the January hired workforce compared with 9.6 percent last year.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$8.96 per hour during the January 2002 survey week, up 30 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.25 per hour, up 49 cents from last January, while

livestock workers earned \$8.25 per hour compared with \$8.07 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$8.25 was up 38 cents from last year.

The number of hired workers on farms in the **3-State Region including Kentucky**, Tennessee, and West Virginia totaled 25,000 during the week of January 6-12, 2002. Hired workers worked an average 34.4 hours during the survey week. The average wage rate for all hired workers was \$7.29 per hour. Field workers averaged \$6.72 per hour and livestock workers averaged \$7.18 per hour.

## HONEY PRODUCTION

Honey production during 2001 for **Kentucky** totaled 234,000 pounds, up 90,000 pounds from the previous year. Yield per colony averaged 78 pounds, up 30 pounds from 2000. The number of colonies producing honey totaled 3,000, unchanged from 2000.

As of December 15, 2001, Kentucky producers had 94,000 pounds of honey on hand for sale, compared with 40,000 pounds the previous year. The average price received for all classes of honey during 2001 was \$1.31 per pound, compared with \$1.35 during 2000. The value of Kentucky honey production during 2001 was \$307,000, compared with \$194,000 a year ago.

**U.S.** honey production in 2001 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 186 million pounds, down 16 percent from 2000. Honey production in 2001 was the lowest since 1989, when 181 million pounds was produced with a yield per

colony of only 51.2 pounds. There were 2.51 million colonies producing honey in 2001, down 4 percent from 2000. Yield per colony averaged 74.0 pounds, down 10.1 pounds from the 84.1 pounds in 2000. Colonies which produced in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 64.8 million pounds on December 15, 2001, down 24 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program. Prices for the 2001 crop averaged 66.9 cents per pound, up 12 percent from 59.7 cents in 2000. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighting quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2001 were higher than the previous year for all marketing channels and all color classes except "All Other Honey, Area Specialties".

# RED MEAT PRODUCTION

## COMMERCIAL RED MEAT PRODUCTION 1/

**Commercial red meat production** for the United States totaled 4.08 billion pounds in January, up 4 percent from the 3.93 billion pounds produced in January 2001 and a new record high for January. January 2001 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays. January 2002 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

Type	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001	Jan. 2002	Jan. 02 % of	
				Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
	Million Pounds			Percent	
Beef	2,205	2,110	2,330	106	110
Veal	18	16	17	95	108
Pork	1,692	1,668	1,716	101	103
Lamb & Mutton	19	19	18	93	92
Total U.S.	3,934	3,813	4,081	104	107
Total Kentucky	41.5	40.1	40.2	97	100

1/ Based on packers' dressed weights and excludes farm slaughter.

## COMMERCIAL SLAUGHTER, JANUARY 2001 & 2002 1/

Type	Number Slaughtered		Total Live Weight		Average Live	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	1,000 head		1,000 lbs.		Pounds	
<b>Kentucky</b>						
Cattle	1.6	1.7	1,351	1,517	871	869
Hogs	200.5	195.7	54,254	52,429	271	268
Sheep & Lambs	0.5	0.7	84	112	169	152
<b>United States</b>						
Cattle	3,001.6	3,055.8	3,679,013	3,851,45	1,226	1,260
Hogs	8,643.2	8,657.8	2,286,307	2,317,05	265	268
Sheep & Lambs	268.5	254.9	38,386	35,642	143	140

1/ Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other Commercial slaughter, excludes farm slaughter.

**Beef production**, at 2.33 billion pounds, was 6 percent above the previous year and a new record high for January. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.06 million head, up 2 percent from January 2001. The average live weight was up 34 pounds from the previous year, at 1,260 pounds.

**Pork production** totaled 1.72 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year and a new record high for January. Hog kill totaled 8.66 million head, virtually unchanged from January 2001. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 268 pounds.

**Frozen food stocks** in refrigerated warehouses on January 31, 2002, were greater than year earlier levels for beef, pork, orange juice and potatoes.

## COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS

All U. S. Warehouse Stocks				Jan 02 as % of	
Commodity	Jan 31, 2001	Dec 31,	Jan 31,	Jan 2001	Dec
Frozen Poultry	1,000 lbs			Percent	
Chicken:					
Broilers (Whole)	16,186	24,087	24,703	153	103
Other Chicken	730,203	687,667	687,043	94	100
Total Chicken 1/	757,371	719,689	718,197	95	100
Turkey	291,419	240,524	320,038	110	133
Total Frozen Poultry	1,052,258	967,207	1,045,210	99	108
Meat					
Total Frozen Beef	410,886	460,737	445,422	108	97
Pork:					
Bellies	50,145	44,301	50,666	101	114
Total Frozen Pork	471,382	464,959	503,797	107	108
Total Meat 4/	907,822	946,805	972,061	107	103

1/ Includes broilers, hens and other chickens. 2/ Includes chicken, turkey and ducks. 3/ Includes picnics, hams, bellies, loins, ribs, trimmings, and other frozen pork. 4/ Includes frozen beef, pork, veal, lamb and mutton, other frozen meat, canned hams, and other canned meat.

## U. S. CATTLE ON FEED

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on February 1, 2002. The inventory was 3 percent below February 1, 2001 and slightly below February 1, 2000. **Placements** in feedlots during January totaled 2.17 million, 4 percent below 2001 and 2 percent below 2000. Net placements were 2.08 million. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 381,000, 600-699 pounds were 614,000, 700-799 pounds were 734,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 437,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during January totaled 2.08 million, up 2 percent from both 2001 and 2000. **Other disappearance** totaled 89,000 during January, 14 percent above 2001 and 29 percent above 2000.

## CATTLE ON FEED 7 STATES 1/

**Cattle on feed** February 1, 2002 in the 7 States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 9.9 million, down 3 percent from the previous year but 1 percent above February 1, 2000. **Placements** in feedlots during January totaled 1.90 million, 3 percent below 2001 and 2 percent below 2000. **Marketings** during January totaled 1.79 million, up 2 percent from 2001 and 3 percent above 2000. **Other disappearance** during January was 74,000 head, 9 percent above 2001 and 45 percent above 2000.

1/AZ, CA, CO, IA, KS, NE, AND TX.

## UNITED STATES EGG PRODUCTION & HATCH

Type	Jan. 2001	Jan. 2002	Jan. 02 % of Jan. 01
<b>Egg Production</b>			
Eggs Produced (Million)	7,103	7,248	102
Average Layers (000)	333,798	338,265	101
Eggs Per 100 Layers	2,128	2,143	101
<b>Egg Type Hatchery</b>			
Eggs Set Feb. 1 (000)	35,357	32,025	91
Chicks Hatched (000)	37,976	35,533	94
<b>Broiler Type</b>			
Eggs Set Feb. 1 (000)	612,779	637,582	104
Chicks Hatched (000)	733,889	775,669	106

## KENTUCKY CROPS VALUED AT \$1.46 BILLION

Crops produced by **Kentucky** farmers during the year 2001 were valued at \$1.46 billion, down 11 percent from the 2000 crop valued at \$1.64 billion. Good soil moisture, a relatively cool summer and good harvesting weather combined to produce good crops. Prices received by farmers were unchanged to generally lower. Tobacco remained Kentucky's number one cash crop despite the 7 percent decrease in value of production from 2000. Tobacco accounted for 35.7 percent of Kentucky's total crop value for the year 2001 and 27 percent of the U.S. value of tobacco produced. Baled hay and corn also decreased in value. The other two major crops for Kentucky - soybeans and wheat - increased in value. Kentucky ranked 22nd

among all states in value of production. The value of production for the year 2001 is preliminary and based on an estimate of market year average prices. Value of production will change as market year average price and/or production are revised.

All crops produced in the **U.S.** for 2001 were valued at \$88.5 billion, up slightly from 2000. California remained the number one State with a total crop value of \$14.5 billion. Iowa was second with \$6.07 billion, and Illinois ranked third with \$6.01 billion. The Nation's top three crops in value of production were corn with \$19.2 billion, all baled hay with \$12.6 billion and soybeans with \$12.4 billion.

## KENTUCKY PRINCIPAL CROPS RANKED ACCORDING TO VALUE OF PRODUCTION-2000 AND 2001

2001 Rank	Commodity	Unit	2000 Crop Year 1/			2001 Crop Year 2/			01 Value as % of 00 Value
			Price (Dollars)	Value (\$1,000)	% of Total Value	Price (Dollars)	Value (\$1000)	% of Total Value	
1.	Tobacco, All	Lb.	1.983	561,388	34.2	1.983	520,305	35.7	93
2.	Hay (baled)	Ton	81.50	475,875	29.0	70.50	359,073	24.6	75
3.	Corn (for grain)	Bu.	2.07	330,993	20.2	1.90	296,780	20.4	90
4.	Soybeans	Bu.	4.71	213,080	13.0	4.40	214,720	14.7	101
5.	Wheat	Bu.	2.26	54,104	3.3	2.55	60,588	4.2	112
6.	Fruit & Vegetables			1,777	.1		3,029	.2	170
7.	Sorghum, Grain	Bu.	1.94	1,484	.1	2.00	1,700	.1	115
8.	Barley	Bu.	1.44	864	.1	1.40	952	.1	110
9.	Miscellaneous			51	*		52	*	102
	TOTAL			1,639,616			1,457,199		89

1/ Revised. 2/ Preliminary. \* Less than .1%

## KENTUCKY FARM NUMBERS DECLINE

There were 88,000 farms in **Kentucky** during 2001, down 2,000 farms from the previous year. The average size of Kentucky farms rose to 155 acres, up 4 acres from 2000. Farm numbers continue to decline as operators retire or discontinue farming. The average size of farms is increasing as existing farm operations rent or acquire additional farm land. A farm is defined as "any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold or would normally be sold during the year". Government payments are included in sales. Institutional farms as well as experimental and research farms are included as farms. Places with their entire acreage enrolled in the government programs such as the Conservation or Wetland Reserve programs are considered farms. Nationally, Kentucky ranks fifth tied with California in number of farms. States with more farms than Kentucky include Texas with 227,000, Missouri with 108,000, Iowa with 93,500 and Tennessee with 91,000. Of the 88,000 Kentucky farms, 51,000 had sales of \$1,000-\$9,999, 31,000 had sales of \$10,000-\$99,999 and 6,000 had sales of \$100,000 and over. Land in farms remained constant at 13.6 million acres. Farmland accounted for 54 percent of the approximate 25.4 million total acres in Kentucky.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2001 was estimated at 2.16 million, down 0.7 percent from 2000. The decline in farms and ranches occurred primarily in agricultural operations with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 economic class. This is the second largest decline in farms and ranches since the 1.4 percent drop in 1991. Total land in farms, at 941.2 million acres, declined 0.2 percent or 1.9 million acres from last year. The average size of farm increased 2 acres from 434 acres in 2000 to 436 acres in 2001. The U.S. number of agricultural operations in the economic sales class \$1,000-\$9,999 declined 0.6 percent to 1,166,590 in 2001. Farms and ranches with sales in the \$10,000-\$99,999 economic class decreased 1.2 percent from 2000 to 642,010 operations. The number of farms and ranches with sales over \$100,000 remained unchanged at 349,180. Adverse weather, lower commodity prices, and competition for land continued to contributed to the overall reduction and consolidation of farms and ranches during 2001.

**Internet Access:** Kentucky Agricultural Statistics Service (KASS) data including this report are available free of charge on our Internet homepage located at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky>. Links to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center and other web sites related to Kentucky Agriculture are also included. National & State reports and data are available on the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) homepage located at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

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